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Message Text

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21
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 RSC-01 ISO-00

SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 /134 W
---------- 100815
R 060201Z DEC 74
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8250
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS USUN 5760

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR UN PO
SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 4 BY PORTUGUESE MINISTER SANTOS

1. PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF INTER-TERRITORIAL COORDIN-
ATION ANTONIO DE ALMEIDA SANTOS GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE
AT UN ON DECEMBER 4 MAINLY TO DISCUSS PORTU-
GUESE DECOLONIZATION. SPECIFIC SUBJECTS COVERED AND
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ANSWERS TO PERTINENT QUESTIONS (AS UNOFFICIALLY REPORTED

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TO US) FOLLOW.

2. SANTOS STRESSED NEED TO START IMMEDIATELY WITH ECONOMIC HELP FOR TERRITORIES FORMERLY DEPENDENT ON PORTUGAL. HE NOTED MANY WHITES HAVE TERMINATED THEIR BUSINESSES. SOME FAVOR RETURN TO PORTUGAL AND OTHERS ARE WAITING IN UNCERTAINTY. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN PAST TWO YEARS PORTUGAL HAD CONTRIBUTED 4 PERCENT OF GNP TO ITS OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, A SACRIFICE WHICH COULD NOT CONTINUE. AFTER INDEPENDENCE OF TERRITORIES PORTUGAL PREPARED TO SEND TECHNICIANS, DOCTORS, TEACHERS AND ENGINEERS AND WILL CONTINUE CULTURAL PROGRAMS BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE AS MUCH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS BEFORE TO FORMER TERRITORIES. HE CITED MOZAMBIQUE AS EXAMPLE OF RICH COUNTRY WHICH WILL NEED SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR NEXT YEAR OR TWO.

3. TURNING TO ANGOLA, SANTOS SAID PORTUGAL HAD NO ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL AMBITIONS THERE BUT HOPED TO MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC LINKS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO ELIMINATE CLOSE PORTUGUESE-ANGOLAN COLLABORATION IN NEXT FEW YEARS BECAUSE DIRECTION OF AN ECONOMY CANNOT BE CHANGED IN A MOMENT. HE CONSIDERS ANGOLA AND PORTUGAL AS TWO FREE COUNTRIES RESPECTING EACH OTHER AND UNWILLING TO IMPOSE ANYTHING ONE ON THE OTHER.

4. SANTOS ENVISAGED SIX NEW PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING UN MEMBER COUNTRIES FROM AFRICA AS ALL FORMER TERRITORIES REACH INDEPENDENCE BY NEXT SUMMER. (WE ARE NOT SURE HOW SANTOS ARRIVED AT FIGURE OF SIX.) PORTUGAL EXPECTS RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL THESE SOON-TO-BE INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES. SANTOS NOTED ESPECIALLY HIS CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH FRELIMO AND MOZAMBIQUE, WHERE HE HAD LIVED FOR 20 YEARS.

5. SANTOS SAID HE HAD AVOIDED DISCUSSING MACAO DURING PRESENT VISIT BECAUSE PORTUGAL DOES NOT CONSIDER TERRITORY TO BE A COLONY. HE MENTIONED TACIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND MACAO AND SAID TWO ENTITIES HAVE NO POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. MACAO, HE ASSERTED, IS SELF-
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SUFFICIENT. SANTOS SAID THAT AFTER PORTUGAL ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING, PORTUGAL WILL AGAIN REVIEW ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH MACAO.

6. IN DISCUSSING CAPE VERDE ISLANDS SANTOS STRESSED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PAIGC, ADDING THAT GUINEA BISSAU AND CAPE VERDES ARE TWO SEPARATE PROBLEMS. A POPULAR GROUP IS NEEDED FOR TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRA-

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TIVE POWERS IN CAPE VERDES AND PAIGC HAS ACCEPTED THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSFER. PORTUGAL TAKES
NO POSITION REGARDING THE FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN CAPE
VERDES AND GUINEA BISSAU, IT ONLY WANTS A SMOOTH TRANSFER
OF POWER AND FEELS PAIGC IS IN BEST POSITION TO WIN MAJOR-
ITY FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS.

7. ASKED ABOUT EFFECT OF PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ON OTHER
LIBERATION MMOVEMENTS SANTOS SAID THAT HE FEELS PORTUGUESE
EXPERIENCE WILL CERTAINLY INFLUENCE OTHERS IN SOME MEASURE
BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN AFRICA.
ASKED ABOUT PORTUGUESE POLICY ON SOUTH AFRICA SANTOS
SAID PORTUGAL WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF OTHER COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED THAT PORTUGAL
OPPOSES APARTHEID. REGARDING ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE
AND SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA, SANTOS SAID IT WOULD NOT
BE EASY TO FIND AN EQUILIBRIUM THERE. AS FOR MOZAM-
BIQUE'S POSITION REGARDING SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTHERN
RHODESIA, SANTOS SAID PORTUGAL LEAVES THAT DECISION TO
THE FRELIMO GOVERNMENT.

8. SANTOS SAID PORTUGAL FAVORED POPULAR CONSULTATIONS
IN ALL TERRITORIES BUT IN MOZAMBIQUE, PORTUGAL HAD
FOUND A MOVEMENT THAT COULD BE RESPECTED. FRELIMO
FOUGHT 13 YEARS FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE THERE AND OTHER
MOVEMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE CAME INTO BEING ONLY AFTER
APRIL 25 COUP. PORTUGAL COULD NOT REFUSE LEGITIMATE
FRELIMO REPRESENTATION AS IT WAS EVIDENT POPULAR
REFERENDUM WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

9. AP CORRESPONDENT OATIS ASKED WHAT GIVEN US USE
OF AIR BASE IN AZORES, IS EFFECT OF DECOLONIZATION ON
THESE ISLANDS. SANTOS REPLIED DECOOLONIZATION ON AZORES
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IS NO PROBLEM BECAUSE ISLANDS HAVE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH PORTUGAL THAT COMPARES TO ADJOINING TERRITORY WITH
ITS OWN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUTONOMY. THEREFORE,
AZORES IN NO WAY RELATED TO MOZAMBIQUE OR OTHER FORMER
TERRITORIES. SANTOS DECLINED COMMENT ON US ASPECT
THIS QUESTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN05760
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740354-0049
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741252/aaaabsvf.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 4 BY PORTUGUESE MINISTER SANTOS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, UN, (SANTOS, ANTONIO DE ALMEIDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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